



Chromebook Availability

TO: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Robin Desmond, Chief Academic Officer *Robin Desmond*

DATE: February 2, 2022

The following report is in response to the motion by Andy Descoteaux and Dominik H. Lay:

Ask the Supt. to furnish the SC with the number of Chromebooks that are currently in the LPS; separating ones that are broken or unusable and are those being used by our students. Also, what technology equipment does our LPS staff have available today and how much is in need of repair or unable to be repaired? Do we currently have adequate staffing to ensure our technology needs are being met, system wide?

Lowell Public Schools (LPS) currently enrolls 14,140 students Pre-k through grade 12 (data provided by Abigail Anderson, LPS Director of Data and Accountability). Of the 14,140 students, 491 are enrolled in Pre-K programming. Since September of 2020, LPS has been a 1:1 device district. Currently, approximately 13,500 students enrolled in grades in K-12 have been provided a Chromebook. Students in kindergarten were assigned touchscreen Chromebooks which may be used either as a tablet or traditional keyboard Chromebook. Students grades 1-12 have been provided a traditional Chromebook. The remaining students have been assigned or have access to iPads.

Of the 13,500 students with Chromebooks, there are 215 waiting to be evaluated by a technician to determine if the issue is a software or hardware related issue. Currently, 1,240 Chromebook devices have been turned in for repair; however, replacement Chromebooks have been distributed to students. The Worth Ave insurance program provides cases for the staff to pack and ship broken devices to the company for repair. Once repaired, the devices will be returned to the district, and those devices will be put back into the available inventory. These refurbished Chromebooks will be distributed to students as more devices are returned in need of repair. There are approximately 100 devices currently listed as lost or stolen and replacement devices have been provided to those students while the assigned device is located. These numbers fluctuate throughout the year.

In the spring of 2021, new staff devices were purchased. The devices were deployed base on the staff member's position. For example, finance staff received PCs to access various financial applications. Teachers received new MacBook Airs to replace their aging MacBook's. Every staff member has been assigned a device of some type, providing them access to our network and the internet. There are currently 30 staff computers slated to be sent out for repair under a warranty or Apple Care. Staff have also been provided a replacement device while these devices are out for repair. Currently, there are MacBook Airs, laptops, PCs, iMacs, Cleartouch Panels, projectors, document cameras, 3-D Printers, Robotics, and laser printers available to staff throughout the district.

During the 21-22 school year, LPS increased staffing levels in the Information Technology department. Current staffing in the Information Technology Department is: 1- helpdesk technician, 4- full time technicians, 2- part-time technicians, 1- Software Specialist, 1- Network Administrator, 1- Assistant Network Administrator, 4- Instructional Technology Specialist and 1- Director of Technology. This team of 15 staff members work together to meet the technology needs of the district. The above information was provided by Gregory Limperis, LPS Director of Information Technology.